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Report : Petition of A. Dart

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 12, 1879.—Agreed to and ordered to be printed.

Mr. OGLESBY, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of Anson Dart, formerly superintendent of Indian affairs in Oregon, praying for such enactment as Congress may deem just and proper to enable him to receive what is justly due him as per agreement when he entered the government service in 1850, beg leave to report, after an examination of the evidence submitted in the case by the petitioner (which consists of remarks made by several Senators and members of Congress in behalf of the allowance of a similar claim presented by petitioner in 1860, and statements by petitioner himself of conversations which are said to have taken place between the then Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Ewing, of Ohio, submitted to the committee in a printed pamphlet, which is herewith returned and made a part of the papers in the case), that it appears, by referring to Report No. 1, Thirty-sixth Congress, first session, of date February 24, 1860, to accompany bill H. R. 220, made by Mr. Edwards, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, that the subject-matter of the present petition was then fully before Congress, and that the difference which he now claims in his salary between \$2,500 and what he was to receive as chargé d'affaires to the Argentine Confederation was not at that time presented as a ground for the increase of the compensation which he then petitioned for, but that the ground of the increase of compensation was then placed upon the claim that he was to have the same salary as superintendent of Indian affairs in the State of Oregon as any superintendent of Indian affairs provided for by that Congress for California should receive, and that, as by an act of that Congress the office of superintendent of Indian affairs was created for California, and the salary was fixed at \$4,000, he ought to have the increased per annum allowance of \$1,500. The grounds of the petition for increase of compensation at that time were not the same as are set forth in the present petition. It appears from said report, which is referred to and made a part of this report, that the claims of the petitioner were fully considered in all their different bearings, and that, in compliance with said report, an act was passed, approved June 16, 1860, allowing to the petitioner an increase of \$1,500 per annum for his services as such superintendent for a period of three years, and the Secretary of the Treasury was directed to settle with him upon the principles of equity and justice, so as to indemnify him for all money paid

and expenses incurred for the use and benefit of the government, in addition to his increase of compensation as superintendent.

It thus appears that whatever of merit there might have been in the present petition for increase of compensation for the valuable services supposed to have been rendered by the petitioner was fully recovered and allowed for by said act.

The committee, therefore, feel that there is no merit in the present claim, and recommend that it be indefinitely postponed.

